

Appendix A.2

Survey Comments from Pilot Panel

- Include statement requesting survey to be returned even if respondents do not complete the entire survey.
- Tell teachers how I obtained their name.
- Discard question on interest level of teachers in GIS. Their interest might be higher if they knew about the technology.
- Questions are very clear to answer.
- Leave off the “why did you decide to use GIS” question.
- Could send a follow-up reminder postcard one week before due.
- Do you want the school’s name on the waiver form?
- Combine “which subjects do you teach?” with “which subjects to you use GIS”.
- Include “at home” in question on “where are you running your GIS?”
- Change “purchased or donated GIS” to “acquired GIS.”
- Change “social studies” category to “other social studies.”
- “The less writing, the better.”
- Change “disadvantages of GIS” to “hampered by these challenges.”
- Add “Not applicable” or “no opinion” to the benefits and challenges list.
- Do you want to ask anything specifically about student views of GIS?
- Change student/computer ratio from school to “classes you teach.”
- Put the questions you most want to have answered first.
- Be more specific on plans for the future – what percentage of students will be exposed to GIS in the next five years.
- Include “is there any resistance to the use of GIS? If so, why?”
- Change “Greetings educator” to “Dear colleague.”
- Include “magnet” in the listing of school types.

- Include “lack of useful/usable data” in challenges to using GIS.
- Include “circle all that apply” whenever appropriate.
- Insert “including yourself” in question on how many teachers at your school are using GIS.
- Change “GIS package” to “GIS software.”
- Place survey return information on each page in case staple comes out.
- Change “using GIS in the curriculum” to “using GIS in your classroom.”
- Distinguish between hearing about GIS versus learning about and being trained in GIS.
- Rephrase “what is your experience or expectation of the advantages of GIS.”
- Include an incentive for teachers to fill out the survey; e.g. a map, CD-ROM, etc.
- Leave more space in the benefits and challenges rank section.
- It seemed easy to understand and quick to complete. The consent form is probably the biggest barrier.
- May be overstating the benefits in the consent form.
- I like the “describe one lesson in which you use GIS”—question because it gives an example and doesn’t ask for a detailed description.
- All clear and well-laid out.
- Reformat scales with descriptors under the numbers.
- I look forward to seeing the results!
- How will you handle the open-ended questions?